

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 2011

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Statement from County Executive David R. Craig Regarding the Governor's Proposed Congressional Map

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Congressional map submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly looks as though it was painted by Picasso himself. But while it may be "aesthetically pleasing" to some, it does not allow for good representation for Maryland's citizens.

The result of enacting the Governor's map will be a situation where many Maryland citizens are unsure who is representing them, and where members of Congress are unsure whom they represent.

Congressional districts should be as compact as possible, should keep communities of common interest together, and should reflect the demographics of the state. The 2010 Census indicates that over 40% of Marylanders are minorities. As such, there is no reason why there should not be more than the two majority-minority districts contained in the proposed map.

A good map will also respect county and municipal boundaries where feasible. As a County Executive and a former mayor, I understand the importance of having a good relationship with your member of Congress, in addition to having clear and sensible boundaries between districts. Having districts that snake in and out of counties does not lend itself to good representation.

The goal of redistricting should not be to preserve seats for incumbents – regardless of party – or to allow incumbents to select their voters. Nor should it be to put partisan political desires ahead of minority representation.

I ask that the General Assembly give the alternative maps that have been introduced a full and fair hearing, as the map proposed by the Governor is far from ideal.

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"